

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
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USUN MISSION NEW YORK 495

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4501

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, OA, JM
SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE OF ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER
LOPO DO NASCIMENTO IN JAMAICA

REF: KINGSTON 4377

1. ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER LOPO DO NASCIMENTO MET JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY IN KINGSTON ON 29 MAY AND GAVE A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE THE FOLLOWING DAY IN WHICH HE SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING BOTH TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THAT ANGOLA NEEDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF BANA CULTIVATION, AND HE FELT THAT JAMAICA MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRAIN SOME ANGOLAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS IN JAMAICA. IN RETURN, ANGOLA MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPORT CEMENT AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS TO JAMAICA. HOWEVER, DO NASCIMENTO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE PLANS ARE STILL TENTATIVE. HE ALSO EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO MANLEY TO VISIT ANGOLA AND SAID HE EXPECTED A REPLY FROM THE JAMAICAN
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GOVERNMENT UPON HIS RETURN TO JAMAICA ON JUNE 3.

2. DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, DO NASCIMENTO SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON THE CURRENT LEVELS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ANGOLA. DEFENDING THE CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, DO NASCIMENTO SAID THAT BOTH THE ANGOLAN AND THE CUBAN GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED

IN ADVANCE THAT CUBAN TROOPS WERE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PREVENT AN INVASION OF ANGOLA BY SOUTH AFRICA. DO NASCIMENTO PRAISED THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF A 300-PERSON CUBAN MEDICAL DETACHMENT IN ANGOLA.

3. THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER PAULO JORGE AND 11 OTHER ANGOLAN OFFICIALS IN ADDITION TO DO NASCIMENTO, ARRIVED IN KINGSTON ON MAY 29 FROM HAVANA. WHILE IN JAMAICA, THE ANGOLANS ALSO MET JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER P. J. PATTERSON AND WENT ON A TOUR OF A PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT WITH ANTHONY SPAULDING, MINISTER OF HOUSING. THE ANGOLANS DEPARTED KINGSTON ON MAY 30 FOR NEW YORK, WHERE DO NASCIMENTO WAS TO ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT. DO NASCIMENTO IS TO RETURN TO JAMAICA BRIEFLY ON JUNE 3 ENROUTE BACK TO ANGOLA.

4. COMMENT: WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT WHETHER ANGOLA AND JAMAICA WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH MUCH, IF ANY, BILATERAL COMMERCE. MOREOVER, THE JAMAICAN BANANA INDUSTRY IS SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED, DUE IN LARGE PART TO ITS INEFFICIENCY, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE JAMAICANS COULD PROVIDE THE TYPE OF TRAINING WHICH THE ANGOLAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS NEED. HOWEVER, DO NASCIMENTO'S VISIT IS SYMBOLICALLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH PARTIES; IT HAS PROVIDED ANOTHER THIRD WORLD FORUM FOR THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO STATE ITS CASE, AND IT HAS BOLSTERED MANLEY'S IMAGE AS A THIRD WORLD LEADER. UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTE BY OCT: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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